



## **Regional Service Council Minutes Region # 10**

**Meeting Date:** November 17, 2006

**Meeting Location:** Child Advocates, Indianapolis

**Council Members Present:** Chair Dan Carmin, MCDCS; Maribryan McGeney, MCDCS; Judge Beth Jansen, Marion Superior Court- Juvenile Division; Taren Duncan, MCDCS; Susie Kennedy, MCDCS; Maggie Cooper, Foster Parent; Rhonda Allen, MCDCS; Cindy Booth, Child Advocates

**Council Members Absent:** Judge Marilyn Moores, Marion Superior Court- Juvenile Division; Mary Ann West, MCDCS; Judge Kelly Rota-Autry, Marion Superior Court- Juvenile Division

**Others In Attendance:** Janice Klein, Geralyn Pierce, and Ivette Barbosa, Children's Bureau; Rod Babcock, Wernle Children's Home; Allison Creekmore, Valle Vista; Jill Cheatham and Karlene Edgemon, Villages; Angela Reid-Brown, MCDCS; Brant Ping and Jodi Stuck, Marion County Superior Court- Child and Adolescent Placement Project

<b>Meeting Minutes</b>
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**Meeting Called to Order at:** 9:07 a.m.

**I. Call the Meeting to Order**

**II. Approval of Minutes**

- a) Minutes from the Oct. 10, 2006. McGeney made a motion to approve and Duncan 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The Council approved the Oct. 10, 2006 minutes.
- b) Minutes will be available on the DCS website. The minutes will be put on the website after Regional Service Council approves the minutes.
- c) Council members and others in attendance should check the website for any cancellations.

**III. Old Business**

- a) Children's Bureau will have the Foster Care Day Care Provisional License as of this coming Tues. Janice Klein will follow up with DCS to develop procedures.
- b) Allen asked where the Council was at in making a decision regarding the use of Children's Bureau Mallon House. Carmin would like to put this on the agenda for next month. Brant Ping is going to do an assessment of current services available and have a report to the Council for the next Council meeting.
- c) Ping asked the Council to entertain an amendment to the Dawn Project contract that had expired in Dec. 31, '05. Choices would like the Council to agree to a supplemental agreement that would continue with services but a per diem increase to \$4510. On July 1, 2001 MCDCS and Marion Superior Court- Juvenile Division and Choices entered into an agreement entitled the Marion County Intensive Wraparound Services Agreement, relative to creating, developing and supporting child and family centered community based services network, commonly referred to as the Dawn Project. Duncan made a motion to approve the supplemental agreement and Allen 2<sup>nd</sup> this agreement. The full Council approved the supplemental agreement.
- d) There was a question raised by the Villages as to if the bill for the Foster Care Appreciation Dinner has been paid yet. Carmin stated that this bill has not been paid yet but will be paid in 2006. Villages is concerned that that we have burned bridges before related to this issue and does not want to burn bridges with the Children's Museum.

#### **IV. New Business**

- a) Carmin brought to Council's attention that there will be a second round of the Child and Family Services Review for Oct. '04- Sept. 30, '05. This will be taking place in April of next year. Prior to this there will be a State assessment that will happen immediately. This assessment will require several focus groups to answer many different questions surrounding Marion County services to children and families.

#### **V. Foster Care Licensing**

- a) Carmin stated that there were amendments made to the foster care license. Children's Bureau and Villages are present today to ask for an extension on their current contract. Janice Klein presented for

Children's Bureau. Klein stated that during the past year they have licensed 48 new regular foster homes for Marion County. Currently Children's Bureau supervises 190 homes, up from 150 when this contract began. The 2005-2006 contract which ended on 9/30/06 was for \$357,500. Children's Bureau actually had a billings worth \$381,442 which is a \$23,940 difference. Based on this history Children's Bureau has budgeted the \$381,442 for 2007 budget year. Children's Bureau is requesting \$24,000 per year additional dollars for the Foster Care licensing contract. Klein stated that they can not bill until they get an updated contract. Klein stated they are not asking for a rate increase. Children's Bureau noted that they are performing additional services since the original contract was formulated. Some of these services include: monthly contacts with active foster parents to provide support versus yearly contacts, bi-monthly trainings for foster parents versus monthly trainings, contacts with prospective foster parents, 24/7 day a week support, and state mandated FBI checks which requires additional administrative assistant's time.

- b) Karlene Edgemon presented for Villages. Edgemon is also asking for an extension on the current Foster Care Licensing Contract. Their request for Oct. 2006- Sept. 2007 extension does not ask for an increase in the cost of our services. Villages is requesting an increase of \$24,000 per year to cover the level of current services being provided. Villages currently has 214 MCDCS foster homes (11 out of county). 2006 ranges from 214-221 foster homes. Villages has also provided additional services since the original contract was formulated. Some of these services include: 24/7 support, additional events for foster parents, support groups offered two times a month versus one time a month, new responsibility of having families obtain FBI checks, feedback sessions for foster parents, and ICWIS entry now taking three times per week rather than one time per week due to space constraints at MCDCS.
- c) Council discussed the new State Law that requires all foster parents to be fingerprinted including all children over the age 14.
- d) Currently in Marion County approximately 81%- 87% of the licensed foster homes are full. There are about 1300 youth in foster care in Marion County.

- e) Carmin asked for the council's consideration on these two proposals. Federal IV-B monies help support these two programs. Duncan stated that this is an absolute needed service. Allen stated that eventually this will be in-house but currently there is not the capacity to do this so MCDCS is in support of this service. Booth moved that both proposals be accepted by the Council. Kennedy 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. The Council voted that Children's Bureau and Villages extend their current foster care licensing contract with a \$24,000 per year increase for both agencies.

## **VI. Practice Reform Update**

- a) Allen reported that a couple weeks ago a presentation was done for Child Advocates, court personnel, Public Defenders, and DCS legal staff. Booth and Allen stated that it was very beneficial for all parties. On Feb. 2 there will be a formal training with Linda Bayless to present on child and family teaming. This will be a full day training for Child Advocates, court personnel, Public Defenders and DCS legal staff. Allen forwarded this date to Brant Ping to help clear court calendar. Another training was completed. About 35% of the MCDCS staff has gone through classroom and field training. There are now 6 peer coaches that are fully trained. There will be 3 more that will finish up at the end of Dec. The last 3 peer coaches will start training in Feb. Allen also stated that there will be a group that will be going to Salt Lake City, UT in Jan. to learn more about practice reform. There will be several community stakeholders that will be attending this trip. This is made possible by a grant through Lilly Endowment.

## **VII. Budget Update**

- a) Carmin stated that he will bring a YTD total of Child Welfare Services to the next RSC meeting.

**Next Meeting Date, Location and Time:** Dec. 15, 2006, 9:00 a.m. This will be held at Child Advocates.

**Meeting Adjourned at:** 10:10 a.m.